

Illinois Commission on the Elimination of Poverty

Full Commission Meeting

January 14, 2013 Meeting

2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Chicago location: Thompson Center 2nd Floor, 2-025

Call-in information: 888-494-4032, access code – 6828373837

Attendance:

Toni Irving, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor
Rev. Dr. Sid L. Mohn, Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
Sheila Chalmers, Office of the Lieutenant Governor
Brianna Baker-Carvell, Illinois Department of Corrections
Vinni M. Hall, Illinois State Board of Education
Fernando Chavarria, Illinois Department of Employment Security
Nelida Smyser-Delear, Illinois Department of Human Services
Antonio Baxton, Illinois Department of Commerce & Economic Opportunity
Robyn Gabel, State Representative
Michael B. Golden, Illinois Education Foundation
Jim Hires, Eastern Illinois Food Bank
Wendy Pollack, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty
Al Riddley, Executive Director Illinois Coalition for Community Services
Daniel Schwick, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
Terry Solomon, Illinois African-American Family Commission
Maria Whelan, Illinois Action for Children
Mike Jones, Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services
Kimberly Drew, Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
Sam Tuttle, Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
Amy Terpstra, Social IMPACT Research Center
Cynthia Waldeck, Heartland Alliance for Human Needs & Human Rights
Mavara Agha, Office of the Governor

- I. Welcome & Introductions
- II. Review and approve minutes from 9/10/2012 Full Commission Meeting

The minutes were approved.
- III. Presentation on the 2012 Report on Illinois Poverty

Amy Terpstra from the Social IMPACT Research Center presented a sneak-peak of the upcoming Illinois Poverty Report. The slides will be distributed to the Poverty Commission when the Poverty Report is released on Wednesday January 16th.

The presentation highlighted that a fundamental goal of the preamble of the Illinois state constitution is to eliminate poverty. Illinois is not going a good job eliminating poverty; in fact poverty has increased from past years.

Amy highlighted that it is Heartland Alliance's 125th anniversary and they are renewing their effort to eliminate poverty, and encourage state and society to do so as well.

"Illinois' 33%" is a phrase that will be used to capture interest, which is the percentage of Illinois residents that are poor or near poor. Poor is defined as extreme poverty, poverty, and low-income. Commission members are encouraged to watch the videos in the power point when the slides are sent out. 39 counties in Illinois are on either the watch or warning list of poverty. Poverty increased from 11.9% to 15% from 2007 to 2011.

The presentation also highlighted solutions to poverty including specific legislation. This includes increasing the minimum wage, 529 College Savings, Homeless Prevention, The Affordable Care Act, and Auto IRA.

The report will be released on Wednesday, and Commission members will receive copies in the morning.

IV. Lame Duck Session Update

Toni Irving reported that the Lame Duck session was uneventful. A management bill passed, which capped on labor positions for care. The driver's license bill for undocumented immigrants passed, as well as a police and mental health bill. There was no movement on pensions or a DCFS supplemental. The supplemental will be at the top of the agenda when the General Assembly re-convenes at the start of February.

V. Legislative Watch List

Please see the Illinois Commission on the Elimination of Poverty – 2013 Legislative Agenda document.

The commission reviewed the 2013 Legislative Agenda and explained the goal of framing the legislation by which bills the Commission will take a leadership role in and which bills the Commission will take a supportive role.

Toni Irving highlighted 4 bills that she encouraged that the commission focus on that are more likely to pass and have support from the Governor's office. These bills include: Ban the Box, Minimum Wage, Medicaid Expansion, and the Insurance Exchange.

She shared that a committee has been formed to address Ban the Box. Toni also suggested that the point person for Ensuring Success in Schools get in touch with Julie Smith in the Governor's Office.

Toni explained that due to the pension and budget issues, there will be no increases in funding for anything this year, and that maintenance funding is on the chopping block.

She encouraged advocates to look at using Social Impact Bonds, which have been used in Massachusetts and New York to explain initial costs that will lead to future savings.

The Commission would like to include clarifying language on the state budget statement on the legislative agenda to connect the fair tax campaign and debt restructuring to strengthening the safety net.

VI. Planning for 2013
a. Legislative Working Group

The Legislative Working Group will be reformed to meet to vet new legislative possibilities. Commission members agreed to join the Legislative Working Group:

1. Sam Tuttle, Heartland Alliance
2. Daniel Schwick, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois
3. Sheila Chalmers, Lt. Governor's Office
4. Terry Solomon, Illinois African American Family Commission
5. Vinni Hall, Illinois State Board of Education
6. Wendy Pollack, Sargent Shriver National Center on Poverty

Additional members are welcome to join the Legislative Working Group.

b. Briefing for New Legislators – Meet and Greet

Amy Terpstra from IMPACT suggested that she could provide boards with data from the Poverty Report. The Commission would invite members of the legislature and state agency representatives. Last year had a small turnout, but the legislature went in to session that same night. The Commission could use the district specific extreme poverty fact sheets as a lure to attend the event. The Governor's Mansion was suggested as a location, with a time that would

be early enough for members to attend before session, between 9am-11am. Individual outreach increases attendance.

The event should be held before 11am so it's less of an issue for lobby day, and has to be held on a Wednesday or Thursday, either before or after session. The Commission could make the Meet & Greet a breakfast to let people know about film screening.

c. Beyond Two Rivers Film Screening

Suggested that the meet and greet be combined with a film screening, or that it be used as a lead up to the film screening. Suggestions for the screening were: Lincoln Library, State Museum, and the Conference Room at Statehouse.

VII. Updates & Announcements

Daniel Schwick, Lutheran Social Services of Illinois shared a "Rally for Human Care" event in Springfield on May 8th. The Rotunda in the Statehouse has been reserved for the day. It will be an event advocating for the safety net and will consist of morning training for face to face advocacy, a mid-afternoon rally in the Rotunda, and face to face advocacy in the afternoon.

Kim will send out a copy of the statement, and he is looking for feedback on wording. He is looking for organizations to endorse the statement and make a commitment to attend. Ideally, it will consist of delegations of approximately 5 people consisting of a combination of staff and participants.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30pm.